

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-17,19, 21-24, 26 and 28-39 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 3, 18, 20, 25 and 27 have been cancelled and new claims 35-39 have been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 31 has been amended to address the informalities that the Examiner mentioned in the Office Action.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tashiro et al. (Tashiro, US 2002/0196393 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tashiro teaches as shown in Figs. 92 and 93 the protruding portions 96 and 98 formed between two sealing materials so that, “with respect to the protruding portion 96, the protruding portion 98 is formed inward by a predetermined measurement on the substrate surface.”

Regarding independent claim 1, Tashiro lacks the plurality of compensating patterns that Applicants’ invention teaches. In Tashiro, assuming *arguendo* the protruding portion 98 can be a compensating pattern, the protruding portion 98 is shaped so that it can be inserted into another protruding portion 96, as shown in Fig. 93, and the portions 98 and 96 are not

aligned with each other. On the contrary, Applicants' invention has a compensating pattern "disposed below and aligned with" a supporting pattern. Because Tashiro does not teach this feature of claim 1, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-17, 21, 22, 24 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima et al. (Hiroshima, USPN 6,705,584 B2) in view of Sakai et al. (Sakai, USPN 6,222,603). Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, 18-20, 23, 25 and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima in view of Sakai further in view of Ishikawa et al. (Ishikawa, USPN 6,414,733). Claims 1, 15, 16 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagawa et al. (Yanagawa, US 2001/0033356 A1). Claims 26, 27 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima in view of Sakai as applied to claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-17, 21, 22, 24 and 28-30, and further in view of Yanagawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 15, Applicants' invention is distinguished in that it teaches "a plurality of compensating patterns disposed below and aligned with the plurality of supporting patterns." Neither Hiroshima nor Sakai teaches such claimed compensating patterns. Hiroshima has the support patterns SP2, but completely lacks the compensating patterns.

Sakai lacks both the support patterns and the compensating patterns. Further, independent claims 1 and 15 recite a plurality of supporting patterns in the second region, a plurality of compensating patterns disposed below and aligned with the plurality of supporting patterns, and a plurality of seal patterns between the plurality of supporting patterns in the second region. Such features are absent from Ishikawa or Yanagawa. Ishikawa teaches only one sealing member 4 adjacent to a shielding member 14. Yanagawa teaches projection bodies PRO that are placed between two substrates to function as spacers and the seal SL between the projection bodies PRO. However, nowhere does Yanagawa teach the plurality of compensating patterns and seal patterns as recited. Because all of the references applied for the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection lack these claimed features of amended independent claims 1 and 15, they fail to teach Applicants' claimed invention, even when they are combined.

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's allegations made in rejecting the claims, Applicants hereby cancel existing claims 3, 18, 20, 25 and 27 to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and must be withdrawn.

Accordingly, none of the references relied on by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1 and 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 15 clearly define over the teachings of the utilized references. In addition, dependent claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from these

independent claims, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from the independent claims, which are believed to be allowable.

Additional Claims

Claims 35-39 have been added for the Examiner's consideration. The support for claims 35-39 can be found in, e.g., Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 of Applicants' invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements as set forth in new claims 35-39 are not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 35-39 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

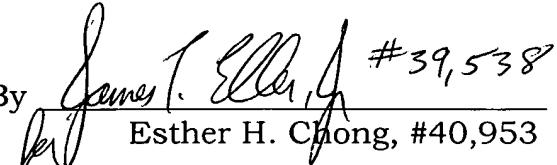
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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